



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2006
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NEVADA MAN SENTENCED FOR DISRUPTING FLIGHT

COLUMBUS – Joseph Pervis Hébert, III age 47 of Elko, Nevada has been fined \$5,000, barred from flying for six months, and placed on probation for five years for disrupting a flight from Cleveland to Cincinnati in March, forcing an emergency landing in Columbus. Hebert must also pay \$2,724.73 in restitution to the airlines.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Timothy P. Murphy, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation; and Chief Richard Morgan, Columbus Airport Police announced the sentence handed down today by United States District Judge Gregory L. Frost.

Hébert and six others boarded a Continental Airlines flight operated by Champlain Airlines in Cleveland on March 10, 2006 bound for Cincinnati. About 40 minutes after the plane took off, Hébert grabbed an off-duty uniformed airline employee seated in front of him and threatened to kill him. Hebert said he wanted the plane to return to Cleveland and made other “incoherent” statements relating to guns and bombs. Hebert moved toward the cockpit before he was physically restrained in an empty seat by passengers and off-duty crew. The plane made an emergency landing in Columbus where Airport Police arrested him.

Hébert pled guilty on May 4, 2006 to one count of assault on board an aircraft.

Judge Frost also sentenced Hébert to continue mental health treatment as directed by his probation officer and take any and all medication prescribed for him. After the initial six-month ban, Hebert must first notify the airline and his probation officer who must verify his mental fitness before he flies anytime during the rest of his probation.

Lockhart commended the prompt response of the airline employees and passengers to avert a possible disaster, the response of the Columbus Airport Police officers, and the investigation by agents of the FBI, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney Deborah A. Solove, who prosecuted the case.

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BROADCASTERS NOTE: Hébert is pronounced “A-bear”.